

## AFRICA.

## BISHOP TAYLOR'S REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE,

1894.

*To the General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN—

Greeting from Africa with this my Annual Report to you who are planning and working to make the Gospel Proclamation coextensive with the redemption which is in Christ Jesus and the needs of the human race.

The plan of missionary work, well suited to Asiatic countries, with their oriental type of civilization and industries, comprising school work and Gospel preaching, was not broad enough for the needs of a purely heathen country like Africa ; so to those we have added two leading lines of work : *Industries*, adequate to the demands of the Christian civilization to which the natives are elevated, so that they can provide for themselves and support their own missions ; *Nursery Missions*, into each of which we adopt from ten to twenty little boys and girls, taken from heathenism before they become heathens, get them soundly converted, and train them in Christian life and work. The results thus far achieved commend the plan. Industries were introduced which were best suited to the various localities, and the natives are everywhere taught the useful labors of the house, shop, garden, and farm—the gain to them in developing a right spirit of independence, and acquiring a practical knowledge of useful avocation, exceeding the financial advantage to the mission stations.

Coffee growing, the main line of support on the West Coast, is of slow development, but is approaching success. The smaller gardens and farms on the Congo have realized sustentation in the case of three stations on

the river ; and the others are nearly so, except building and transportation ; while on Angola District all the stations and substations are self-supporting, and, in some measure, self-propagating.

The Nursery Missions are a grand institution, in the conversion of the children themselves and their utilization as an evangelizing agency. By them heathen, from kings and petty chiefs to outcast "Bushmen," whose adherence to various forms of witchcraft and polygamous complications seemed a bar to the earnest efforts of adult missionaries, have been won to Christ by their unquestioned testimonies. This was illustrated at a recent baptismal service at Brooks Station, Liberia, when three generations of one family knelt together at the head of the circle of candidates at the altar—the grandmother, father, and mother, and little sister of Diana, the little Grebo who was introduced to the last General Conference. The Nursery children, with the native evangelists, into which some of them have already developed, are everywhere one of the largest human agencies in the work of salvation that is in progress in some of our mission stations, and has commenced in others.

We have lost two missionaries by death. Rev. Bradley L. Burr, who, as Superintendent on the Congo, left a work that will ever feel the impress of his holy life and labors ; and Miss Levina Ratcliffe, a holy young woman who received her appointment above the clouds soon after her arrival at the Angola District Conference. Only four of our missionaries have returned during the year ; two because of the ill health of one of them, and two on temporary leave of absence to recruit, one of whom sailed for Africa last Wednesday, and the other desires to return.

Besides your missionaries to White Plains Seminary, we have sent nine adults to Africa this year, and have now forty-four white missionaries at the front, by special request of the Secretary for Africa *not including* some of our most efficient workers, the children of our missionaries—"of such is the kingdom of heaven." Names and appointments of each are given herewith. Besides these we have a continually increasing number of native evangelists.

As fully as distance and time will allow I desire to present to you an accurate report of your work in Africa, and a clear financial and statistical exhibit of our Industrial Missions.

#### THE LIBERIA CONFERENCE

is composed of 40 members, 25 of whom are engaged in the old work of the Conference. Were the appropriations divided *pro rata* each would receive \$100. They are in the main self-supporting, by means of their profession, business, or labor, and give most of their time to the regular work of effective members. Assisted by 53 local preachers, they are the shepherds over 3,364 members, 251 probationers, and 2,779 Sunday school scholars, and the spirit of revival has prevailed on many of their charges during the year. In their efforts to keep lights of salvation burning on a dangerous coast they need our loving sympathy and prayer of faith.

## SEMINARIES OF THE SOCIETY.

*Cape Palmas.* Miss Alma Lawson, temporarily in charge, assisted by a native boy trained by Mrs. McNeil-Buckwalter, has instructed an average of thirty scholars. Three acres of garden, ten acres of farm out of town, all the property of the Society, has assisted in support of teachers. The appropriation, supplemented by private funds, has been used, and vouchers returned, for support, books, and necessary repair of a falling porch.

*Monrovia.* Miss Anna E. Whitfield, temporarily in charge, with her adopted native girls, has held on, under much local difficulty. Appropriation used, vouchers returned, for support and necessary division of Seminary building by partitions.

*White Plains.* Rev. E. H. Greeley and wife, sent out by the Missionary Board, and appropriation used, under the immediate direction of the Secretaries, for their outfit, passage money, and house and school supplies. There is a good farm of two hundred acres, and self-support should be rapidly developed. The school had to be organized from pure native elements.

## NATIVE WORK IN THE LIBERIA CONFERENCE.

*Jacktown,* Rev. J. W. Bonner; has substantial building and a large coffee orchard beginning to bear. Regular preaching services.

*Bluebarra,* Rev. J. W. Kennedy; is a comparatively new station, with only native-built house; has a good farm. Sabbath school and preaching.

*Wah Country,* Rev. J. W. Draper; native house also, and new farm. Evangelistic work carried on.

*Ebenezer.* Judge Z. B. Roberts, an ordained local elder, has a good farm under thorough cultivation. Twenty children in the mission family.

*Fortsville.* To be supplied. Has two hundred acres of land, surveyed by J. H. Deputie.

*Pesseh.* Rev. R. Boyce has been engaged in building, cultivating coffee, and developing a Sabbath school.

*Golah.* Rev. W. P. Kennedy, Sr., travels a circuit of five miles and seven half towns, and preaches to the passing crowds daily. Assisted by his daughters he is doing effective evangelistic service.

*Vey Mission,* near Cape Mount, Monrovia District, has been under the care of Cato Ware, son of the deceased missionary there, who reports twenty acres of young coffee trees under cultivation, which, in a few years, should furnish good support for the station.

WEST COAST INDUSTRIAL MISSIONS.—Rev. John G. Tate, Presiding Elder; Rev. A. L. Buckwalter, Financial Agent.

*Wissika,* John Smith and Mrs. Freda Smith. Good farm and young coffee orchard. Small church organization, and regular preaching and teaching.

*Eublokey*, Betty Tubman. Small farm and coffee orchard. Six mission children. Work retarded by war, but has been again hopefully resumed.

*Beaboo*, Mrs. Nora Garwood. Frame house, farm, and coffee orchard, in good condition. There is an organized church of ten members and twelve probationers, and sixteen boys and girls in the mission family. Regular preaching and teaching in native towns.

*Barraka*, Grace White and Anna White. Farm nearly supports the station, and coffee orchard commenced bearing. Several native-built houses, and decaying mission house now being replaced by substantial building. Sixteen children in mission family; good force of native workers and evangelists assisting in regular services in several towns. Fourteen members and fifteen probationers.

*Brooks Station*, Mrs. Lizzie McNeil-Buckwalter. Twenty children in Nursery Mission, successful soul-saving work in village and Bigtown, where a strong native church has been organized under King Hodge. Church at Brooks has eighteen members and eleven probationers; large Sabbath school. Substantial mission house.

*Garraway*, Miss Agnes McAllister and Mrs. Jennie Hunt. Fine farm and coffee orchard commencing to bear. Sister Hunt in charge of mission family of fourteen and farm. Sister McAllister engaged in successful evangelistic work in town and several villages. Native Christian town, Zion, prosperous spiritually. Two substations in charge of native evangelists, trained in this mission. Fourteen members, fourteen probationers.

*Piquinin Sess*, John McLean, trained by the late Professor Nichols at Cape Palmas Seminary. A successful missionary, beloved by his people; a powerful people, and "the best warriors on the West Coast."

*Grand Sess*. Rev. J. B. Robertson, just returning from short leave of absence, and Mrs. Lena Robertson. Poor land for farming. Eight boys in mission family. Good soul-saving work in town and surrounding villages, assisted by native evangelists. Church of fifteen members and sixty probationers. Three Sabbath schools.

*Sass Town*, and three substations, all in charge of native Christian workers, under supervision of Presiding Elder Tate. Farm and coffee cultivation, but land poor. Native church membership over two hundred. Center of evangelizing power for interior towns and coast sailors. Seventeen children in mission family. One native Christian town composed of young men who have redeemed their wives from heathen families.

*Niffoo*, in charge of a Niffoo native who was trained by Miss Sharp at Monrovia, and who, with his wife, was baptized by me eight years ago.

#### CONGO DISTRICT MISSION STATIONS.

*Mamby*, Henry Nehne and Mrs. Martha Kah Nehne. Here we have a good mission house and garden, and a few children. Our inability to secure a French teacher, after the death of Miss Burkhalter, only the



French language being permitted in the schools of French Congo, and the influence of more recently opened Roman Catholic schools, has seriously retarded the work. Good seed has been sown in witnessing and preaching to the heathen contiguous. We expect to move this station.

*Natombi Vivi*, Banana Creek. Miss Mary Kildare has made a good success in teaching and preaching and self-support. She has several redeemed children under training for Christian workers. Regular preaching to the heathen, the lawless of whom fear and respect her; and sustentation from her orchard and garden. A noble woman of God, who needs a sister worker of like spirit.

*Vivi*, our receiving and transport station on the river, in charge of Rev. W. O. White, as is also the mission steamer, used as occasion requires, and as a Bethel Mission. We have a good mission house at Vivi, productive garden, a mission family of little girls and boys who are all saved workers for Jesus. A good assistant needed.

*Isangila*. Rev. William Snape has succeeded on all lines of industrial mission work. He reports several converts from heathenism, regular preaching in a number of towns adjacent, Sabbath and day schools, adequate self-support, and has built a new mission house. The work developed needs several missionaries.

*Kimpoko*, Stanley Pool; Rev. William Rasmussen, Mrs. Helen Chapman Rasmussen, Crilles Jensen, and Mrs. Jensen. Dr. Harrison has been granted leave of absence, but had not come down river at last accounts. Our lamented Brother Burr left two good mission houses, a well-developed farm, small native school, and regular preaching appointments in the native villages, and Kimpoko has been self-supporting for several years. At last account Brother Rasmussen and party, on their way up river, were temporarily working Isangila, while Brother Snape hastened on to Kimpoko to assist Dr. Harrison.

*Boma, Matadi, Brooks Station No 2, and Sulnaburg*, to be supplied.

#### ANGOLA DISTRICT.

##### Summary of church work and translations:

Average attendance at Sabbath preaching.....	175
Average attendance at Sabbath school.....	150
Average attendance at day school.....	68
Probationers .....	24
Full members.....	62
Baptisms.....	19
Native nursery children.....	46

#### TRANSLATIONS INTO KIMBUNDU.

Gospel of St. John—entire; Gospel of St. Luke—incomplete; various portions of entire Scriptures; Catechism—complete; Hymn Book.

APPOINTMENTS.—Rev. Amos E. Withey, Presiding Elder.

*St. Paul de Loanda*, Rev. Charles W. Gordon.

*Dondo*, to be supplied.

*Nhanguepeppo*, Rev. William Schneidmiller.

*Ben Barrett Station*, Rev. William P. Dodson, Mrs. Catharine Dodson, Mrs. A. E. Withey, Rev. Herbert C. Withey, and J. W. Shuett and wife, till a station can be opened for them in Dalla Kasua's country.

*Pungo Andongo* and *Canandua*, Rev. Robert Shields, Mrs. Lizzie Shields, and Susan Collins.

*Malange Circuit* (including Malange, Farm Nursery, Munhall Mission, and Bondo Country), Rev. Samuel J. Mead, Mrs. Ardella Mead, Mrs. Minnie Mead, John Mead, Miss Louise Ranen, with native evangelists Bernando and Luzia, his wife, Mathew and wife.

Summary of Angola District, financial exhibit :

Total value of real property.....	\$37,484 31
Amount due African fund. ....	7,773 34
	<hr/>
Balance real property.....	\$29,710 97
• Increase for the year.....	4,159 00
Commercial capital, stock and cash.....	\$8,771 32
Invested in cattle.....	1,590 00
	<hr/>
Total working capital, free of debt.....	\$10,361 32
Earnings for the year :	
Total income for the Province.....	\$3,021 55
Total household expenses....	2,259 44
	<hr/>
Net earnings, above self-support.....	\$762 11

#### EAST AFRICA AND ZAMBEZIA.

Rev. Erwin H. Richards, Superintendent, made a tour of examination in the interior, and returned to the coast to establish a base of operations. He purchased the mission property at Inhambane, Mokodwini, Kambine, and Mongwe, including three mission houses. Sunday schools, day schools, and regular preaching, with the assistance of a number of native evangelists. Scriptures, catechism, and hymns in native language. I have appointed four missionaries to this field, to go forward from New Zealand next spring.

East Africa Mission, annual financial statement :

Balance on hand from last year.....	£633- 8- 9.
Property purchased, sustentation, and traveling expenses.	422-14-11.
	<hr/>
Balance of Interior Mission Fund on hand.....	£210-13-10.
Proceeds of trade and industry.....	230- 0- 9.
	<hr/>
Balance Zambezia Fund.....	£440-14- 7.

#### AFRICA INDUSTRIAL MISSION FUND.

##### *Receipts.*

Balance on November 1, 1893.....	\$8,066 91
Receipts through <i>Illustrated Africa</i> .....	13,016 28
Debenture bonds of estate of George Fowler.....	11,897 20

Interest on debenture bonds.....	\$296 00
Rebate account, outfit returned missionary.....	125 00
Bequests and Legacies.....	5,135 65
Missionary Treasurer, account Liberia Seminaries....	500 00

---

\$39 037 04

*Disbursements.*

Drafts and merchandise, New York office.....	\$16,839 38
London accounts, drafts, and merchandise.....	14,233 84
Interest paid account annuities.....	520 41
Office expenses, stationery, and postage.....	721 45

---

\$32,315 08

Balance account African Fund..... \$6,721 96

OUR WEST COAST MISSIONS.

Geographically and organically our mission stations in Liberia are really within the lines of the Liberia Conference and the Missionary Society. At the last General Conference it was proposed to make the Equator the southern boundary. Our ten stations within those lines, each reported herewith, are manned by some of our most competent, successful missionaries. On each of them there is a coffee orchard approaching the age of profitable bearing, and self-support already partly developed from other sources. It would be in accord with the principles of Self-Supporting Missions, as laid down in the founding of them in India, for these stations, at this stage of their development, to receive a subsidy from the Missionary Society, and, hence, to come under its immediate jurisdiction. In my book entitled *Four Years' Campaign in India*, written over twenty years ago, occurs this statement: "Our ground from the first covers two simple principles, deduced from an admitted fact, namely, self-support is a sound, safe principle, and the only permanently reliable foundation to which all missions aspire and hope to attain; if, therefore, it be a good thing to aim at in the future it is a good thing to begin with, where resources are available. If not adequate to the growing demands of the work then our second principle is to develop the indigenous resources available before we begin to subsidize them from foreign funds; as such appropriations in advance will, in most cases, supersede them."

Missions opened and developed on the charity principle, necessary where there are no available indigenous resources, in most cases find unsurmountable difficulties in the way of changing the method. The principle of self-support is in the constitution and growth of these ten mission stations among the purely heathen tribes of Liberia, and a few years more of the small subsidy they require, which the Lord will enable us to continue if the Society does not accept them, will make them entirely self-supporting. In view of the expressed desire of the Missionary Society to make a progressive move and take a controlling hand in my Africa Missions, I hereby tender them these healthy, thriving stations in heathen Liberia, which I will superintend for them.

## ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1895.

I request the usual appropriation for Liberia Conference.....	\$2,500
Cape Palmas Seminary.....	500
Monrovia Seminary.....	500
White Plains Seminary.....	600
Contingent Fund.....	200
For the seven stations accepted by the Missionary Committee one year ago, namely, Jacktown, Bluebarra, Wah Country, Ebenezer, Fortsville, Pesseh, and Gholah, \$200 each.....	1,400
The return of the Vey Mission to the list, sustained last year by Liberia Conference and myself.....	150

These eight stations among the natives are doing good work, in teaching, preaching, and coffee growing, but as yet need the subsidy asked for. If the Committee decide to take all the stations in the bounds of Liberia Conference, the ten stations manned by trained missionaries, and on which we have expended \$20,000 to advance them thus far, namely :

Wissika, Eublokey, Beaboo, Barraka, Brooks Station, Garraway, Piquinin Sess, Grand Sess, Sass Town, and Niffoo, they will require an average of \$300 each.....	\$3,000
Two new mission houses.....	1,000

To be applied by Financial Agent Buckwalter, who will return vouchers to the Board. The work would continue to have my general supervision for the Society, and be developed as rapidly as possible on industrial self-supporting lines.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed.)

WILLIAM TAYLOR